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TC 1700

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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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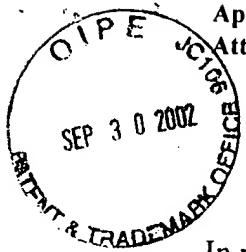
|  |                      |                        |                 |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b><br><i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | Application Number   | 09/771,186             |                 |
|  | Filing Date          | 01/29/2001             |                 |
|  | First Named Inventor | KOOL, Lawrence Bernard |                 |
|  | Group Art Unit       | 1746                   |                 |
|  | Examiner Name        | Smetana, Jiri, F.      |                 |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission   | 15                   | Attorney Docket Number | RD 28011 (3465) |

| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)  |   |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group                            |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application               | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 |   |  |

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT |  |
|--|--|
| Firm or Individual name                    | Christopher L. Bernard Reg. No.: 48,234<br>DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS & HOFER |
| Signature                                  | <i>Christopher L. Bernard</i>  |
| Date                                       | 09/24/2002   |

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  |                        |      |            |
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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 09/24/2002 |                        |      |            |
| Typed or printed name   | Terri K. Lester        |      |            |
| Signature   | <i>Terri K. Lester</i> | Date | 09/24/2002 |

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Application No.: 09/771,186  
Attorney Docket No.: RD-28,011; 3465

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : KOOL, Lawrence Bernard  
Application No. : 09/771,186  
Filed : January 29, 2001  
Title : A METHOD FOR REMOVING OXIDES  
AND COATINGS FROM A SUBSTRATE  
Examiner : Smetana, Jiri F.  
Art Unit : 1746

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

5 Dear Sir:

Prior to continued examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-referenced Application be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

10

Please amend Claims 1 and 23 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

Subcp  
AI  
15 1. (Amended) A method for removing an oxide material from a surface of a substrate or a coating disposed on the substrate, comprising the step of contacting the oxide material with an aqueous composition which comprises an acid having the formula  $H_xAF_6$ , or precursors to said acid, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, Ti, Zr, Al, and Ga; and x is 1-6.